



smuggling of migrants – global news

june 2015

This monthly newsletter summarises news items and media commentary from some of world's leading media outlets. The Migrants Smuggling Working Group takes no responsibility for the content and accuracy of the information provides in these news items.

GENERAL

The Global Struggle to Respond to the Worst Refugee Crisis in Generations – 9 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/06/09/world/migrants-global-refugee-crisis-mediterranean-ukraine-syria-rohingya-malaysia-iraq.html>

Eleven million people were uprooted by violence last year, most propelled by conflict in Syria, Iraq, Ukraine and Afghanistan. Conflict and extreme poverty have also pushed tens of thousands out of parts of sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. The New York Times takes a look at the international response to what has become the worst migration crisis since World War II, according to the United Nations

Pope: Don't close the door on migrants – 17 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu-rel--vatican-migrants-20150617-story.html>

Pope Francis has made an appeal as a series of migrant crises rage around the globe: Don't close the door to those seeking a better life.

AFRICA

EGYPT

Smuggler captain defends trafficking – 16 June 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/16/africa/freedom-project-smuggler-captain/index.html>

On a sandy beach in one of the many inlets dotting Egypt's Mediterranean coastline two men are standing off to one side watching us interview families whose children have been trafficked into Europe. Eventually the taller of them begins to jump in.

ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia Mulls Tough Trafficking Law, Including Death Penalty – 30 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/30/world/africa/30reuters-ethiopia-migrants.html>

Human traffickers in Ethiopia could face life in jail or the death penalty under a bill presented to parliament on Tuesday aimed at curbing the illegal flow of people in and out of the Horn of Africa country.

LIBYA

Migrants bound for Europe create crisis in Libya's southern deserts – 3 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-libya-migrants-20150603-story.html>

While the world is focused on the drama of African migrants drowning at sea in their efforts to reach Europe, little attention is paid to the crisis that's unfolding along Libya's porous southern frontier and perilous desert, where thousands cross in hopes of reaching the coast and a smuggler's boat to Europe.

NIGER

IOM Reports Discovery of Remains of 18 West African Migrants in Sahara – 14 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-reports-discovery-remains-18-west-african-migrants-sahara>

Authorities of Niger and IOM's teams in the field learned on 11 June that the bodies of 18 migrants have been found in the Sahara, IOM Niger's Chief of Mission Giuseppe Loprete said on Sunday (14/6).

IOM Cites Discovery of More Victims in Sahara among Migrants Bound for Libya – 16 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-cites-discovery-more-victims-sahara-among-migrants-bound-libya>

The discovery Monday of the remains of 30 migrants in Dirkou, northeast of Niger's Agadez crossroads brings to 48 the total of dead migrants found in the Sahara this week, adding to the growing death toll of Africans and Middle Easterners believed to have perished this year on their way to Europe.

Graft Stalls Niger's Bid to End Migrant Route to Europe – 19 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/19/world/africa/19reuters-europe-migrants-niger-insight.html>

In the desert town of Agadez in central Niger, almost anyone can tell you where to find the smugglers' compounds concealing African migrants headed for Europe and when the weekly convoy departs across the Sahara.

Corruption stymies Niger's attempts to stem flow of migrants to Europe – 22 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/jun/22/corruption-niger-attempt-stem-flow-migrants-europe-smugglers-sahara>

In the desert town of Agadez in central Niger, almost anyone can point out the smugglers' compounds where African migrants lie low before heading for Europe. Almost anyone, except the police.

TUNISIA

Assistance to Migrants Rescued at Sea in Tunisia – 19 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/assistance-migrants-rescued-sea-tunisia>

In the aftermath of the Libyan crisis, many migrant boats set sail from Libya with the hope of reaching Europe. Some of these boats were rescued off the Tunisian coast. The Tunisian Government requested IOM's assistance in providing immediate humanitarian assistance and voluntary return to migrants wanting to return home. IOM coordinates its actions with the Tunisian authorities, the Tunisian Red Crescent, UNHCR, UNICEF and other stakeholders.

AMERICAS

MEXICO

Mexico deports more Central Americans than the United States – 18 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-lt--mexico-deporter-in-chief-20150618-story.html>

Mexico now deports more Central American migrants than the United States, a dramatic shift since the U.S. asked Mexico for help a year ago with a spike in illegal migration, especially among unaccompanied minors.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Incidents show rising use of personal water craft by human traffickers – 12 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-smugglers-water-craft-20150612-story.html>

Two incidents this week at the U.S. border show one of the latest methods of smuggling people into this country without documentation: by personal water craft.

McAllen Police Officer Resigns, Accused of Human Smuggling – 16 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/16/us/ap-us-officer-human-smuggling.html>

A South Texas police officer has resigned and faces a human smuggling charge after being stopped at a border checkpoint with two women allegedly in the U.S. illegally.

One dead after boat with suspected immigrants capsizes near Encinitas – 18 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-one-dead-california-coast-capsizes-20150618-story.html>

A woman aboard a boat packed with suspected immigrants died early Thursday after the vessel collided with a Border Patrol boat that had intercepted it, authorities said.

1 Dead After California Crash of Suspected Smuggling Boat – 19 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/18/us/ap-us-border-patrol-death.html>

A boat packed with migrants suspected of trying to enter the U.S. illegally collided with an American border vessel seeking to stop it off California's coast Thursday, capsizing the migrant boat and leaving a woman dead, authorities said.

Woman Dies After Suspected Smuggling Boat Hit by U.S. Border Vessel – 19 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/19/us/19reuters-usa-california-crash.html>

A woman aboard a suspected immigrant smuggling boat died on Thursday after the skiff collided with a U.S. Customs and Border Protection vessel in the waters off the coast of southern California, customs officials said.

2 Charged in Border Smuggling Boat Crash That Kills 1 – 19 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/19/us/ap-us-smuggling-boat-death.html>

Two men were charged Friday with immigrant smuggling after a boat they allegedly guided crashed with a U.S. vessel near the Mexican border, leaving one passenger dead.

One dead after Mexican migrant boat collides with US border patrol vessel – 19 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/jun/19/mexico-migrant-boat-california-border-patrol>

Mexico is calling for an investigation after a boat packed with migrants suspected of trying to enter the US illegally collided with an American border vessel off California's coast, capsizing the migrant boat and leaving a woman dead, authorities said.

ASIA-PACIFIC

GENERAL

Closed for Business: Asia's Human Smugglers Go to Ground – 7 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/07/world/asia/07reuters-asia-migrants-camps.html>

For now at least, the smugglers who preyed for years on the misery of Myanmar's Rohingya appear to be going out of business, and Asia's most acute migrant crisis since the 'boat people' exodus at the end of the Vietnam War is ebbing.

BANGLADESH

Meet Bangladesh's people smugglers – 23 June 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2015/06/meet-bangladesh-people-smugglers-150623083053794.html>

Each year thousands of Rohingya refugees flee from Myanmar to camps at Cox's Bazar across the border in Bangladesh. Seeking to continue their journey to countries such as Malaysia, they are vulnerable to the gangs who organise boat travel.

MYANMAR

Myanmar Escorting Boat Crammed With Migrants to 'Safe' Area – 2 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/02/world/asia/02reuters-asia-migrants-boat.html>

Myanmar said a boat crammed with 727 migrants that it has kept stranded at sea for days was now being escorted to a "safe" area for identity checks and the United States said it believed those aboard would be allowed ashore in Myanmar this week.

Myanmar Lands 700 Migrants, U.S. Says Rohingya Should Be Citizens – 3 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/03/world/asia/03reuters-asia-migrants.html>

Myanmar brought ashore more than 700 "boat people" it had kept at sea for days aboard a seized vessel, as the United States on Wednesday called on the country to help solve a migrant crisis by recognizing the rights of its Muslim Rohingya minority.

The Plight of the Rohingya – 3 June 2015

<http://time.com/3907039/rohingya-james-nachtwey/>

For decades, TIME contract photographer James Nachtwey has used his camera to give form to the invisible. Yet in a world filled with persecuted people hidden in isolated corners of the globe, the Rohingya stand out. A Muslim minority from western Burma, the 1.3 million-strong Rohingya have been denied the most basic of human rights: citizenship. Their sense of self has been lost.

US calls on Myanmar to resolve migrant crisis as ‘boatpeople’ brought ashore – 3 June 2015

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1815743/us-calls-myanmar-resolve-migrant-crisis-boatpeople-brought>

Myanmar brought ashore more than 700 “boatpeople” it had kept at sea for days aboard a seized vessel, as the United States on Wednesday called on the country to help solve a migrant crisis by recognising the rights of its Muslim Rohingya minority.

Burma’s Nowhere People – 4 June 2015

<http://time.com/3908627/burmas-nowhere-people/>

Thousands of migrants have fled oppression only to meet death on the seas—or face an uncertain future in refugee camps.

Rohingya in Burma: claim that one in ten have fled on boats – 9 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/09/ten-percent-of-rohingya-in-burma-have-fled-on-boats>

As many as one in 10 of all Rohingya in Burma have fled by boat, making a dangerous voyage with human smugglers who have left them trapped at sea for weeks or forced them into secret jungle camps.

Buddhists protest against Myanmar helping Rohingya stranded at sea – 15 June 2015

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1822137/buddhists-protest-against-myanmar-helping-rohingya-stranded>

Buddhist hardliners backed by monks protested in Myanmar's troubled Rakhine state yesterday against help being offered to desperate migrants found adrift on boats in the Bay of Bengal.

THAILAND

Thai General Suspended After Warrant Issued for Human Trafficking – 1 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/01/world/asia/01reuters-asia-migrants-thailand.html>

Thailand's military suspended a three-star general on Monday after police ordered his arrest on suspicion of human trafficking as pressure mounts on Bangkok to block the illicit trade.

Thai court charges army officer over Rohingya trafficking – 2 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32970764>

A Thai court has issued an arrest warrant for a senior army officer accused of being involved in the trafficking of Rohingya migrants from Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Thai general to be questioned over human trafficking, six years after SCMP revealed role in Rohingya abuse – 2 June 2015

<http://www.scmp.com/news/asia/southeast-asia/article/1814721/thai-general-faces-arrest-human-trafficking-six-years-after>

A Thai military general, who was exposed by the *South China Morning Post* six years ago for orchestrating the brutal secret detention and expulsion of Rohingya migrants, has been suspended by the military after police ordered his arrest on suspicion of human trafficking.

Thai Army General Denies Human Trafficking Charges: Police – 3 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/03/world/asia/03reuters-thailand-trafficking-arrest.html>

A three-star Thai army general has denied charges against him for offences related to human trafficking, Thailand's police chief said, the latest in a series of arrests aimed at stamping out people smuggling.

Thai police wrap up human trafficking probe – 23 June 2015

<http://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2015/06/23/thai-police-wrap-human-trafficking-probe.html>

Thailand's crackdown on people smuggling and trafficking networks has successfully dismantled the grim trade, police announced Tuesday while admitting that dozens of suspects have yet to be apprehended.

MIDDLE EAST

TURKEY

Syrian Kurds nearing Islamic State border stronghold, thousands flee – 13 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/ct-syrian-kurds-islamic-state-20150613-story.html>

Hundreds of Syrian refugees poured into a Turkish-Syrian border crossing Saturday, fleeing intense fighting as Syrian Kurds closed in on an Islamic State-held town — the only passageway linking Turkey with the extremist group's stronghold of Raqqa.

As fighting rages in Syrian border town, Turkey braces for new flood of refugees – 15 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/middleeast/la-fg-syria-turkey-flood-of-refugees-20150615-story.html>

Kurdish fighters claimed to be closing in on Islamic State extremists holed up in a strategic Syrian frontier town Monday as Turkey was hit with a new influx of terrified civilians fleeing the fighting.

Turkey Looking to Construct More Walls on Syrian Border-Officials – 27 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/27/world/europe/27reuters-mideast-crisis-turkey-security.html>

Turkey wants to construct more walls along its border with Syria to strengthen security against Islamic State militants and crack down on illegal border crossings, senior officials told Reuters on Saturday.

YEMEN

IOM carries out its first evacuation by boat of migrants stranded in Yemen – 12 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-carries-out-its-first-evacuation-boat-migrants-stranded-yemen>

IOM evacuated 200 Ethiopian migrants by boat from Yemen, to Djibouti. The evacuation, which took place on Wednesday June 10, involved two boats carrying evacuees to the Djibouti port of Obock.

IOM Carries Out Fifth Evacuation by Boat of Migrants Stranded in Yemen – 23 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-carries-out-fifth-evacuation-boat-migrants-stranded-yemen>

Following four successful evacuations by boat undertaken since 10th June, IOM evacuated 175 additional Ethiopian migrants stranded in Yemen, bringing the total number of Ethiopian migrants evacuated by boat so far with IOM assistance to the Republic of Djibouti to 652.

EUROPE

GENERAL

Russia Wants Precise Wording for U.N. Resolution on Libya Human Smugglers – 1 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/01/world/01reuters-libya-security-eu-russia.html>

Russia said on Monday any U.N. Security Council resolution allowing for the use of force in the Mediterranean to stop gangs smuggling migrants must define the powers of an EU naval mission precisely to win Moscow's backing.

Peak Sailing Season Sees More Mediterranean Migrant Rescues, Deaths – 2 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/peak-sailing-season-sees-more-mediterranean-migrant-rescues-deaths>

Nearly 5,000 migrants were rescued in the Channel of Sicily over the weekend, as part of the expanded European Union (EU) search and rescue operation in the Mediterranean.

Migrants turn to Greece-Turkey route to Europe – 5 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33020600>

More migrants are trying to reach the EU via Turkey and Greece than taking the perilous sea crossing from Libya, the EU's border management agency says.

UK Warns 500,000 Migrants Could Try Mediterranean Crossing – 6 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/06/world/europe/ap-bc-eu-italy-migrants.html>

Naval vessels from Italy, Britain, Ireland and other countries steamed toward the waters off Libya on Saturday to rescue the latest wave of migrants from smugglers' boats. British authorities warned that up to 500,000 people could attempt the perilous crossing this summer.

Half a million refugees gather in Libya to attempt perilous crossing to Europe – 6 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/06/cameron-merkel-at-odds-resettle-refugees-europe-migration>

Up to half a million refugees are gathering in Libya to attempt the crossing to Europe on the deadly boats that have killed thousands already.

Hundreds of migrants rescued from people traffickers in Mediterranean – 6 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/06/migrants-rescued-mediterranean-smugglers-libya>

Naval vessels from Italy and Ireland rescued hundreds of migrants from smuggler boats in the Mediterranean on Saturday as ships from several countries, including Britain, coped with waves of people setting sail from Libya in human trafficking operations.

Mass migrant rescue operation underway in Mediterranean – 8 June 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/07/europe/mediterranean-migrants-rescue/index.html>

Calm seas and good weather in the southern Mediterranean are prompting a wave of migrant smuggling ships to attempt the crossing from Libya to Italy, the International Organization for Migration said Sunday, putting many lives at risk.

HMS Bulwark 'overloaded' by migrant tide – 8 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33043691>

For HMS Bulwark and her crew, 7 June was "the longest day". It started at first light when she launched her Merlin helicopter to scan the horizon for the boats filled with migrants. It didn't take long to find them.

HMS Bulwark arrives in Italy with 1,200 rescued migrants – 8 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33055697>

Royal Navy warship HMS Bulwark has arrived in an Italian port, carrying 1,200 migrants rescued from the Mediterranean Sea.

Number of Migrants Landing in Europe in 2015 Passes 100,000 – 9 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/number-migrants-landing-europe-2015-passes-100000>

Some 102,000 migrants have arrived by sea in Europe this year, according to IOM. The number is slightly ahead of levels reached at this time in 2014 and reflects growing sea-borne migration from the Middle East and Africa, with most of the landings taking place either in Italy or Greece.

Migrants crossing Mediterranean exceed 100,000 this year – 9 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--greece-migrants-20150609-story.html>

More than 100,000 migrants — many fleeing the war in Syria — have crossed the Mediterranean Sea to Europe so far this year, the U.N. refugee agency said Tuesday — and the arrivals in Greece have reached their highest level since the crisis began.

Aid agency: More than 100,000 migrants have arrived in Europe so far in 2015 – 9 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-tns-bc-migrants-europe-1st-lede-20150609-story.html>

Europe has seen 102,000 migrants reach its shores so far this year, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Tuesday.

How children are trafficked into Europe – 16 June 2015

<http://edition.cnn.com/2015/06/15/europe/freedom-project-misery-trail-children/index.html>

A CNN investigation spent months retracing the smuggling route from Egypt to Italy. Speaking to social workers and authorities, children and parents, there is evidence that many of the children were smuggled into Italy by the same criminal networks, who once they are in country, use them for illegal activities.

Britain to send intelligence officers to Sicily to 'disrupt' human traffickers – 17 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/17/britain-send-intelligence-officers-sicily-disrupt-trafficking-gangs>

David Cameron has offered to deploy an extra six British officers from the National Crime Agency to a special Europol intelligence cell in Sicily to “disrupt the trafficking and smuggling gangs”, Downing Street has announced.

EU to Launch Limited Naval Operation Against Migrant-Smugglers – 18 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/18/world/africa/18reuters-europe-migrants-eu.html>

The EU is set to launch a naval mission on Monday against gangs smuggling migrants from Libya but it will be limited to intelligence-gathering for now because of a lack of U.N. authority or Libyan consent.

EU to Launch Operation Against Libya's Migrant Smugglers – 19 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/19/world/europe/ap-eu-europe-libya-migrants.html>

The European Union will move ahead beginning next week on a plan to disrupt the business model of human traffickers in the Mediterranean Sea, diplomats said Friday.

Britain replaces migrant search and rescue ship with smaller naval vessel – 21 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/21/britain-replaces-migrant-search-and-rescue-ship-with-smaller-naval-vessel>

Britain is replacing the Royal Navy flagship that has saved the lives of more than 2,900 Mediterranean migrants with a survey vessel just half the size.

E.U. Begins Naval Operation in Mediterranean to Stop Trafficking of Migrants – 22 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/23/world/europe/eu-begins-naval-operation-in-mediterranean-to-stop-trafficking-of-migrants.html>

The European Union on Monday began the first phase of a naval operation in the Mediterranean that aims to stop the trafficking of tens of thousands of migrants seeking better lives in Europe. The initial phase will involve surveillance, intelligence gathering and patrolling to identify and monitor human smuggling and trafficking networks in the south central Mediterranean.

EU launches navy operation against migrant-traffickers – 22 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--europe-migrants-20150622-story.html>

The European Union launched a naval operation Monday to try to stop human-traffickers from bringing migrants across the Mediterranean to Europe in unseaworthy boats, a lucrative and at times deadly practice.

EU launches naval campaign targeting migrant trafficking – 22 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/europe/la-fg-europe-naval-migrant-trafficking-20150622-story.html>

The European Union on Monday launched a naval operation aimed at halting people smugglers in Libya who so far this year have sent about 60,000 migrants sailing across the Mediterranean Sea, headed for Italy on flimsy boats.

EU launches naval operation to monitor Libyan people smugglers – 22 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/22/eu-announces-naval-operation-to-monitor-libyan-people-smugglers>

The European Union claims it has turned a new page in its efforts to tackle the Mediterranean migration crisis, as officials announced the long-awaited start of surveillance-based naval operations against Libyan people smugglers.

EU launches Mediterranean migrant military mission – 22 June 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/eu-launches-mediterranean-migrant-military-mission-150622073905823.html>

EU foreign ministers have formally approved the launch of the first phase of a military operation against people smugglers in the Mediterranean, officials said.

IOM Launches Study: “Migration Trends Across the Mediterranean: Connecting the Dots” – 23 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-launches-study-migration-trends-across-mediterranean-connecting-dots>

Altai Consulting and IOM today launch “Migration Trends across the Mediterranean: Connecting the Dots”. Based on unique and in-depth qualitative research in countries along the Western and Central Mediterranean routes, the study adds new insights to the ongoing debate over migration across the Mediterranean.

EU summit: Greece and migrants to dominate agenda – 24 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33236228>

Another "crunch" EU summit looms - it sounds like a cliché, but the EU leaders' in-tray really is piled high this time.

UK taskforce will 'smash' Mediterranean people-smuggling operations – 24 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/24/uk-taskforce-will-smash-mediterranean-people-smuggling-operations>

The government has announced further details of a British law enforcement taskforce it says will tackle the people-smuggling gangs blamed for the migration crisis in the Mediterranean.

Libya Says to Discuss EU Plan on Migrants, Sovereignty a 'Red Line' – 25 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/25/world/africa/25reuters-libya-migrants.html>

Libya's internationally recognized government said on Thursday it will send a delegation to discuss with European Union authorities proposals for controlling migrant smuggling, saying its territorial sovereignty was a "red line" in any operation.

European Union leaders inch toward fix for migrant crisis – 25 June 2015

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/world/european-union-leaders-inches-toward-fix-for-migrant-crisis/article25127184/>

With each passing week, the breadth of the migrant crisis facing Europe and the strains it is creating among countries becomes starker.

In Testy Debate, E.U. Leaders Fail to Agree on Quotas to Spread Migrants Across Bloc – 26 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/27/world/europe/european-union-migrant-crisis-quotas-italy-greece.html>

Facing a migration crisis that has infused Europe's usually arid and consensual decision-making with angry passions, European leaders ended an ill-tempered discussion early Friday about what to do with a vague pledge to spread 40,000 migrants around the Continent.

Europe migrant crisis: How are countries coping? – 26 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33286393>

Europe's migration crisis affects EU member states in different ways - so it is proving difficult to agree on common rules.

Italy rescues thousands of migrants from smuggler boats – 28 June 2015

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/06/italy-rescues-hundreds-migrants-smuggling-boats-150628173147495.html>

Italian coast guard ships, along with military vessels from Ireland and Britain, have rescued at least 2,900 migrants from 21 smugglers boats in the Mediterranean, north of Libya.

Austria, Hungary, Serbia Call for Help in Migrant Crisis – 30 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/30/world/europe/30reuters-europe-migrants-balkans.html>

Austria, Hungary and Serbia called on the European Union on Tuesday to step up efforts to fight human smuggling through the Balkans and not just focus on southern immigration routes.

FRANCE

People-smuggling: '100 Britons' jailed in France in past year – 23 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33226799>

Up to 100 Britons are thought to have been jailed in France in the last year for trying to smuggle migrants through Calais to the UK, the BBC has learned.

Up to 100 Britons reportedly jailed in France for attempted people smuggling – 23 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/23/britons-jailed-people-smuggling-migrants-calais-france-channel>

As many as 100 Britons are believed to have been jailed in France during the past year for attempting to smuggle migrants across the Channel into the UK.

GREECE

Greek coast guard searches seas nightly amid refugee crisis – 18 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--greece-migrant-patrols-20150618-story.html>

In the dead of night, a Greek coast guard patrol boat slips its moorings, heading out across the bay toward the Aegean Sea that separates the island of Lesbos from the nearby Turkish coast.

Greek island swamped by refugee flood; no relief in sight – 19 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--greece-refugee-flood-20150619-story.html>

An inflatable dinghy touches the shore in darkness. Dozens of men, women and children jump into the shallow water, stumbling on unseen rocks as they scramble onto a narrow strip of seaweed-strewn beach.

IOM Responds as Greece Rivals Italy as Point of Entry to EU for Sea-borne Migrants – 26 June 2015

<http://www.iom.int/news/iom-responds-greece-rivals-italy-point-entry-eu-sea-borne-migrants>

The Greek islands near Turkey's coast now rival Italy as the top destination for irregular migrants seeking entry into the EU by sea this year, signaling the shift from the central Mediterranean route to the Eastern route.

HUNGARY

Cold War Echo as Hungary Plans Wall to Keep Out Desperate Migrants – 18 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/18/world/europe/18reuters-europe-migrants-balkans-insight.html>

If anyone has benefited from Syria's internecine war it's the men selling bikes in the village of Demir Kapija on Macedonia's southern border with Greece. Forbidden from using public transport in Macedonia, thousands of migrants, most of them Syrians, have taken to two wheels to cross this landlocked republic en route to Serbia, then Hungary and Europe's borderless Schengen zone.

For EU-Minded Migrants, Hungary 'Wall' Seen as Little Hurdle – 23 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/2015/06/23/world/europe/ap-eu-serbia-migrants.html>

On Wednesday, Hungary's right-wing government is to receive a report about the cost, route and construction timetable for the razor-wire fence project, which has drawn scorn from Hungary's EU partners, neighbouring Serbia, and human rights groups.

ITALY

Italian leaders vow not to shelter any more rescued migrants – 7 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--italy-migrants-20150607-story.html>

Heartened by recent election successes by an anti-immigrant party, Italian politicians based in the north vowed Sunday not to shelter any more migrants saved at sea, even as thousands more were being rescued in the Mediterranean from smugglers' boats in distress.

Italy: Politicians Vow to Spurn Migrants – 7 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/08/world/europe/italy-politicians-vow-to-spurn-migrants.html>

Politicians based in the north vowed Sunday not to shelter any more migrants saved at sea, even as thousands more were being rescued in the Mediterranean from smugglers' boats in distress.

Migrants stranded at Ventimiglia on France-Italy border – 15 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33131893>

About 200 migrants, mostly Africans, are having to sleep rough at Ventimiglia on the France-Italy border as French police refuse to let them in.

Stranded migrants: France and Italy exchange recriminations – 15 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-33138852>

Italy and France have become embroiled in a bitter argument over who bears responsibility for about 200 migrants camped on their common border.

Italy Begins to Recover Hundreds of Migrant Bodies From Shipwreck – 29 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/29/world/europe/29reuters-europe-migrants-italy.html>

Italy's navy said on Monday it had begun to recover the bodies of up to 800 migrants from a fishing boat that sank in the Mediterranean three months ago, a tragedy that prompted the European Union to expand sea rescue operations.

MACEDONIA

Macedonia Detain 128 Migrants Hiding in Five Homes – 11 June 2015

<http://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2015/06/11/world/europe/11reuters-europe-migrants-macedonia.html>

Macedonian police have detained 128 illegal migrants from Syria, Iraq and other Middle Eastern countries sheltering in five houses in a village near the border with Serbia, the Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

SPAIN

'Suitcase boy' smuggled into Spain reunited with mother – 8 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-33052936>

An eight-year-old Ivorian boy discovered being smuggled into Spain from Morocco in a suitcase has been reunited with his mother.

Father of African boy found in suitcase freed on bail – 9 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--spain-boy-in-suitcase-20150608-story.html>

The father of an Ivory Coast boy caught being smuggled into Spain in a suitcase last month has been freed on bail, allowing the family to be reunited.

Boy in suitcase reunites with family in Spain; dad released on bail – 9 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/world/africa/la-fg-ivory-coast-boy-suitcase-20150609-story.html>

A haunting tale that began last month with an X-ray silhouette of Adou Ouattara crammed inside a suitcase being smuggled into Spain led at last this week to the 8-year-old boy's reunion with his family.

Spanish court frees father of boy smuggled into Spain in suitcase – 9 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/09/spanish-court-frees-suitcase-boy-smuggled-father-adou-ouattara>

The father of an Ivory Coast boy caught being smuggled into Spain in a suitcase last month has been freed on bail, allowing the family to be reunited.

UNITED KINGDOM

Sixty-eight immigrants found in Harwich International port lorries – 5 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-33018512>

Sixty-eight suspected illegal immigrants, including two pregnant women and 15 children, have been found inside four lorries at a port in Essex.

Harwich port stowaways 'a pitiful sight' – MP – 6 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33034212>

The sight of sick and tired stowaways found among washing machines in lorries at the Essex port of Harwich was pitiful, local MP Bernard Jenkin says.

Tilbury Docks container death case: Men deny people smuggling – 8 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-33051593>

Four men have denied any involvement with an attempt to smuggle 35 people into the UK in a shipping container, in which one Afghan immigrant died.

Tilbury Docks container death case: Men accused treated humans as 'freight' – 9 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-33067047>

Four men accused of attempting to smuggle 35 immigrants into the UK in a shipping container treated human beings as "freight", a court has heard.

Tilbury migrant death: prosecution blames criminal syndicate – 9 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/09/tilbury-migrant-criminal-syndicate-people-smuggling-plot>

A large and organised criminal syndicate was responsible for a people-smuggling operation that resulted in the death of an Afghan national who was found dead inside a container at Tilbury docks, alongside 34 other highly distressed migrants.

Tilbury Docks container death case: Lorry driver 'caught before' – 10 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-33082318>

A lorry driver accused of trying to transport immigrants into the UK inside a container had been fined for people smuggling days before, a court heard.

Court told of distress among asylum seekers locked in shipping container – 10 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/10/court-told-of-distress-among-asylum-seekers-locked-in-shipping-container>

Details of the extreme distress experienced by 35 Afghan asylum seekers during their crossing to the UK in a shipping container have been revealed during the trial of four men accused of participating in a "large and organised" people-smuggling syndicate.

Lorry drivers seek increased security checks as stowaway numbers increase – 18 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-33176382>

Lorry drivers are lobbying for more security checks on ferry services to combat growing numbers of stowaways.

'Plane stowaway' body found on Richmond roof – 19 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-33196210>

A stowaway who is believed to have clung on to a plane has fallen to his death, while another is in hospital.

Flight stowaway in critical condition as police investigate links with fall victim – 19 June 2015

<http://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2015/jun/19/stowaway-fell-to-death-plane-london-shop-heathrow-richmond>

A man remains in a critical condition in hospital after surviving a 10-hour flight by clinging to the undercarriage of a British Airways flight from which another stowaway is feared to have plunged to his death.

Heathrow plane stowaway 'remains in critical condition' – 21 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-london-33215812>

A stowaway found on a plane at Heathrow Airport remains in a critical condition in hospital, police have said.

Migrants jump on trucks as under-Channel traffic resumes – 24 June 2015

<http://www.latimes.com/nation/sns-bc-eu--france-ports-strike-20150624-story.html>

Train services between Britain and France beneath the English Channel resumed Wednesday but the disruption stoked by striking French port workers the day before persevered.

'Calais migrants batter my lorry to get in' – 24 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsbeat/article/33252797/calais-migrants-batter-my-lorry-to-get-in>

A lorry driver tells Newsbeat that migrants will "do anything" to get inside his lorry to get to the UK.

Tilbury Docks container death: Accused had 'no idea' what was inside – 30 June 2015

<http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-essex-33328459>

A man accused of smuggling 35 people into the UK in a shipping container has told a court he had "no idea" what was inside the receptacle.